win, plaintiffs will have other arguments to sue the industry. This appeal only decides the effect of health warnings on cigarettes after 1966.

Judgement on this appeal will probably be made in June/July 1992 though it obviously could occur earlier.

Nearly 50% of the current cases against the industry are dependant on the outcome of the Cipollone appeal e.g. Kotler, Rogers (Indiana), Wilkes, Texas and New Jersey cases.

Of interest is a statement by Jesse Steinfeld (Surgeon General 1969-1973) in JNCI August 21 (S), that in discussions with relevant government departments and congression staffers it was not the intent of Congress to immunize the tobacco industry from liability by requiring warnings.

(b) Gilboy vs American, RJR, Lorillard

On September 5th, Louisiana Supreme Court denied the American bid for reconsideration of its June 21st ruling, allowing Gilboy's product liability claims against the company to go to trial. A status conference took place on November 14; a scheduling conferance will occur mid-February 1992; and a trial date set probably in the autumn.

(c) Hulin vs American and 13 Asbestos Manufacturers

This is one of the few co-defendant cases with asbestos left. The 5th Circuit US Court of Appeals remanded the case to go to trial, following Gilboy's decision. Since there is a move to consolidate all asbestos cases, it is not known what effect is will have on this case.

(d) Horton vs American

Plaintiffs submitted a brief to the Mississippi Supreme Court on November 1, arguing that the September 1990 jury award of zero damages against American was grossly inadequate. A schedule of further plaintiff and defendant briefs will be made to the Supreme Court in December 1991, and January 1992. This court is extremely slow in making decisions, so it is unknown when a furtner judgement will be made.

(e) Allgood vs RJR et al and Grinnell vs American et al are continuing - discovery in Allgood, and no trial date in Grinnell

(f) Ieradi vs Lorillard, Hollingsworth and Vose

The jury rejected the suit brought by Ierardi, who claimed that his rare form of cancer was caused by asbestos in Kent cigarette filters marketed in the 1950's. This case, first brought to court in November 1990, proceeded extremely quickly. (WSJ November 19(S).

Hardy, the industry lawyer, was particularly worried on its outcome, but the jury found insufficient evidence to show that the plaintiff had smoked Kents during the relevant period. Indeed he was in the services and there was not [illegible]

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also could not remember pertinent data. The jury were also impressed by the fact that the amount of asbestos in Micronite filters was too insignificant to be linked to mesothelioma.

There are six further similar cases against Loriliard and Hollingsworth and Vose (filter manufacturers) to be decided.

While this case is not really a smoking and health case its conclusion adds to the aura of invincibility of the tobacco industry. It is doubtful if it will be appealed.

(n) Liggett vs B & W

Liggett is contesting the federal trial judge's decision to throw out the $148.8m jury judgment against B & W's over pricing of generic cigarettes. A brief was submitted to the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond. It is interesting that a further Harvard Professor, Areeda, has been retained by Liggett. He is an authority on antitrust law. B & W are represented by Griffin Bell, a former Attorney General. (WSJ, September 19 (S)). Oral arguments are being made in December 1991.

(i) Environmental Tobacco Smoke

I. Kupper vs RJR. The case revolved around two parents who smoke (mainstream) and a child 15 years old who has unspecified diseases as a result of their sidestream smoke. The discovery stages are very active.

II. Prisoner cases. This is an active area relating to ETS. Three cases have been denied or overturned on appeal. The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled on the Smith vs Brown case. Inmates can proceed with their effort to demonstrate that ETS exposures violate standards of decency under the 8th and 14th Amendments.

III. County of Fresno, California vs Fair Employment & Housing Commission. After many appeals and finally to the Supreme Court of California, the County is said to have failed to have taken adequate measures to protect two asthmatic women from ETS in their ability to work in the workplace. (Indoor Air Review September 1991).

IV. Broin vs six tobacco companies (not B & W). This is a $5b class action lawsuit charging tobacco companies with causing cancer, heart disease, and respiratory illnesses in flight attendants. It is the first major lawsuit contending the effect of ETS (N&O November 1 (S), WSJ, November 1). The class action has not been certified and could take a lot of briefings and time to achieve. It will be a long time before this can come to court.

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5. HEALTH

(a) General

As stated in S&H Report No. 3, p. 19, Health Care continues to be a very prominent political issue. HHS Secretary Sullivan stated that the nation's spending on health care in 1990 was $666b, or 12.2% of the GNP, the highest of any developed nation. Budget Director Darman and Sullivan have claimed that Democratic health proposals are flawed because they underestimate the funding required (Washington Post, October 11). They agreed with Rostenkowski, Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee, that attempting to legislate now would be a terrible mistake (Washington Post, October 10. Senator Bentsen has already stated that the country's health care system is unlikely to change until after the next election (N&O, September 13).

A New York Times/CBC News Poll (NY Times, September 23&) showed that 3 in 10 Americans said they or someone in their household have at some time stayed in a job which they wanted to leave, mainly to keep the health benefits offered. The survey provides some of the strongest evidence of pervasive concern about the costs of medical insurance and care.

M.A. Stoto and J.S. Durch have reviewed "National Health Objectives for the Year 2000" (AJPH, November 1991). The American Public Health Association in Nation's Health, September 1991 strongly urges HHS to support and implement those recommendations from "Healthy People 2000" calling for increased tobacco and alcohol taxes.

The Centers for Disease Control report that the smoking rate fell to a record 28% in 1988. Those who do smoke are likely to be less educated or in a troubled marriage. In a further survey of high school students, it was found that the age of starting smoking has dropped and tobacco use is a problem for at least a third of these students. White students tend to start sooner and smoking is far less prevalent among black students (WDT, November 8 (S)). Wynder (NEJM, September 26 (S)) indicates that smokers who take up the habit may smoke more when they get older than those who begin in their 20's. He suggests additional efforts to help postpone the beginning of smoking among youngsters (emphasis supported by TI and the industry).

The new head of the NIH, Bernadine Healy, "is making strides and waves" (USA Today, September 18). Much greater emphasis is being placed on women's health problems which is badly needed. She has outlined proposals for government studies on at least 140,000 women ages 50-79 over the next 10 years on a range of health problems (USA Today, October 29).

Hawaii is the healthiest state in the USA. West Virginia (50) had 31.8% smokers compared with Utah (3), 15.3%. This is not the whole answer though.

(b) Cancer

HHS have recently published a very comprehensive report on "Smoking, Tobacco, Cancer Program 1985-1989 Status Report" (S). This details usage of tobacco products by race, age, gender, lung cancer incidence, mortality and deaths in detail. It reviews the initiatives to reduce smoking, COMMIT and ASSIST, and the NCI Smoking Research and Control and Intervention activities in the various states. More and more publications on smoking cessation, smoking policies and monographs are being published.

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D.R. Shopland (Coordinator Smoking and Tobacco Control Program NIH) et al published "Smoking - attributable Cancer Mortality in 1991: is lung cancer now the leading cause of death among smokers in the US" (JNCI. August 21 (S)). It is stated that on the basis of the ACS prospective study of 1.2 m men and women mortality risks among smokers have increased substantially for most of the eight major cancer sites casually associated with cigarette smoking. Lung cancer risk for male smokers doubled. women increased fourfold. It is projected that cigarette smoking alone will contribute in 1991 to slightly more than 157,000 deaths of 514,000 cancer deaths. Smoking directly contributes to 21.5% of all cancer deaths in women, 45% men. It appears that lung cancer has now displaced CHD as the single leading cause of excess mortality among smokers in the US.

L.S. Zahn has reported on (S):

(i) Conference on the biology and prevention of aerodigestive tract cancers. Houston, February 21-23, 1991

There still seems to be arguments pro and con of retinoids and beta carotene for anti-cancer activity. The NCI are beginning an 8 year study to determine if dietary supplements of Vitamin A and beta carotene can prevent lung cancer in smokers.

It was reported that oral cancer associated with smokeless tobacco was very important in Asia.

(ii) American Association for Cancer Research, Houston, May 15-19. Special attention was paid to the "PTP Gamma" gene as it relates to lung cancer. If it is proved to be associated, it may be possible to determine why some smokers do not get lung cancer and some nonsmokers do. Much more emphasis is being placed on the role of genetics in cancer

"Molecular epidemiology and the genetics of environmental cancer" appeared in JAMA, 266, 1991, which should allow epidemiologists to develop a cancer risk profile for an individual, which will help focus on preventative strategies and strengthen quantitative risk assessments. A popular article in Newsweek, October 21, developed this theme.

"Does war on cancer equal war on poverty" Science, July 19 was clearly shown at a recent NCI meeting. Cancer is much more prevalent in poor blacks (outnumber whites 3:1) such that there is a 25% higher risk of contracting cancer than their white equivalents

(c) Heart

L. S. Zahn reported on the Conference on Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology Orlando, March 14-16 (S). There seemed to be comparatively little association with smoking.

As stated in S&H Report No. 3, page 21, a great deal more emphasis is being placed on the need for more research in women. Too much reliance seems to have been placed on research results from men. Maybe one problem is due to the fact that CHD episodes are greater in men at all ages up to 85 and heart disease is often difficult to diagnose in women and thus to treat. Standard exercise and other tests are reliable

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for men but often give false results in women (NY Times, August 6). Women also fare much worse when undergoing artery opening procedures (Washington Post, October 29).

Men 5 feet 7 inches or shorter are 60-70% more likely to have a heart attack than men taller than 6 feet 1 inch according to a study of 22,071 male physicians. Shorter people tend to have narrower arteries, which are more vulnerable to blockage, and also less powerful lung function (LA Times, November 12).

Dr. Deedwania of the University of California reported at an AHA meeting on November 13, that smokers are much less likely than non-smokers to feel the chest pains that can warn of a heart attack. The lack of detectable pain is called silent ischemia. Smokers also show a greater rise in blood pressure during exercise, which could increase the risk of heart attack.

(d) Miscellaneous

L. S. Zahn reported on the American Lung Association/American Thoracic Society meeting in Anaheim, May 12-15 (S). The emphasis was on asthma, since deaths from this disease have been on the increase in many parts of the world. A number of reports cited the adverse effects of ETS and other forms of pollution, both indoor and outdoor. Ozone is reported as increasing the susceptibility of people with asthma to allergy induced attacks (J. NIH Research, October 1991). Neal Benowitz at the ALA/ATS meeting stated that he was beginning to look into the "beneficial" aspects of smoking particularly in regard to Alzheimer's disease.

The CDC in a 39 state survey found that nearly one in three women of reproductive age (18-44) were smokers. If they decide to have children, they run the risk of miscarriage, sudden infant death or premature birth. Such women tend to be less educated (NSO, October 25).

The FDA approved a nicotine skin patch Nicoderm manufactured by Alza Corporation (NSO, November 9 (S)). Ciba-Geigy are awaiting approval of its version of the patch. The patch comes in three doses, 21, 14 and 7 mgm. The price for a 10 week regimen is about $3-4.00 per day (NSO, November 21). Ciba-Geigy are suing Alza and Marion Merrill Dow alleging patent infringement over their patches (WSJ, December 2). Unlike nicotine gum, patches are user friendly and increase the likelihood of quitting better. Smokers using Nicotine gum to help them quit tend not to rely on the gum over the long term (Archives of Internal Medicine, October 1991). Using it beyond three months is not recommended. Sales of smoking cessation aides are estimated to reach $100-200 m in the US and $200-400 m worldwide.

Advanced Tobacco Products/Kabi-Pharmacia are developing a nicotine inhaler for smoking cessation. Trials have been underway in Europe and the USA and based on these a decision will be made if a drug application is made to the FDA.

A nicotine laced lollipop "Nic-on-a-Stick" mimicking the oral gratification of a cigarette, for smoking cessation has been granted a patent but has not been manufactured.

A most interesting report on "Bias against negative studies in newspaper reports of medical research" (JAMA, October 2) shows bias against funding, submitting or publishing studies that fail to demonstrate an effect. Consequently a distorted imbalanced picture is produced, whereby scientists or the public at large are more likely to be informed about positive results and not be informed of equally important

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negative results on the same issues. It was, therefore, concluded that responsible newspaper journalists should acknowledge the importance of providing balanced information to the public when covering controversial health issues and should give equal attention to positive and negative studies.

The Great American Smoke Out occurred on November 21st. It is estimated that 20 million smokers will quit for at least one day and 19 million will relapse. Only about 7-10% of those who quit smoking for a day actually make it for a year (NYT, November 21 (S)). The ACS offered free "Quit Kits".

C. Everett Koop (Surgeon General 1981-1989) has written, "The Memories of America's Family Doctor", 1991. He was a most controversial bureaucrat, much opposed to tobacco, but certainly spoke his mind and stuck to his guns.

f. FIRE SAFE CIGARETTES

The fourth meeting of TAG occurred on October 21st. I have not received any papers on this meeting from CPSC as yet. The agenda was sent to PAS.

The test development studies by Richard Gann of National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) seems to be going slowly. The standard substrate for the primary method is showing problems relating to calcium, which is a burn promoter. Calcium is naturally occurring in fabrics and could be removed prior to or post-fabric manufacture. One secondary method being tested is to find how many filters are required for a particular cigarette to extinguish. Heat output of cigarettes is also being measured.

RJR have repeated work on the effect of cigarette circumference on ignition propensity and have found that larger provides no more ignition than smaller, a reversal of TSC work. They are also looking at the effect of oxygen levels available and potassium levels in materials. Spears of Lorillard reporting on a repeat of previous TSC cigarettes and fabrics indicated changes in results, supposedly caused by aging of the fabric. This was disproved after the meeting (at Lorillard RJRD). Moneycutt of B&W reported on air flows on ignition and these showed reversals to expected results. Norman Vello of Lorillard reported work on oxygen levels.

It would appear that there are three subgroups of the US domestic manufacturers working on

-checking alternate fabrics - California standard velvet is the standard at the moment
-checking humidity effects within a room
-checking treatment of more fabrics - in this regard the standard of a lit cigarette placed on the fabric is one minute from lighting to placement. Apparently there are differences if extended tobacco is incorporated since the cigarette burns quicker - also the effect of knocking/not knocking off the ash before placement.

The Fire Incident Study has been contracted out to the National Fire Protection Association with fire departments in eight cities involved, collecting data from 500 incidences and 1500 controls. Spears would have liked more, but accepted these figures.

The question of giving current data to the press was raised. I believe that this could have been caused by McGuire in the Lawyers Alert article sent in B&W

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Report No. 3, 1991. He argued that he was always doing this. The group agreed that all queries on TAG should be referred to CPSC.

It is of much interest that the textile manufacturers have finally become very interested in TAG activities and will look for various fabrics and methods of treatment.

The TAG members only will meet at the NIST laboratories in Gaithersburg, Maryland on January 24th. Richard Gann (NIST), Chairman of TAG, states that he will have a standard test method by October 1992. He appears willing to go ahead with a secondary method, rather than a primary method, if it is is not available. Industry members are very much against this.

The First Annual Report of TAG, September 1991 (S) was accepted by Congress.

7. ENVIRONMENT AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES

During the past few months, there seems to have been a major challenge against the actions of the EPA in relation to the reduction and control of toxic substances in the environment, through the press, the scientists, the courts and even in politics. As an amateur, one can only report on it.

One of the most interesting is perhaps "The environment and the lung, changing perspectives" by J.M. Samuel and M.J. Utell (JAMA, August 7, 1991). The public is concerned with the uptake of atmospheric pollutants, whether they are gases, fibers or particles as they relate to lung disease e.g. radon, asbestos, ETS, acidic aerosols, oxidant gases. In many cases their risk can be reduced by government regulation or by the individual himself.

A report by the General Accounting Office (Washington Post, October 2) accuses federal regulators of failing to protect the public adequately against chemicals in food, water, air and consumer products that damage the reproductive system and endanger human embryos and fetuses. The GAO narrowed its study to the familiar 30 substances and a review of EPA, CPSC, OSHA, FDA found that all but one, ETS, was the subject of at least one regulatory action.

Yet, articles and reviews continue to be written on the validity of risk to human beings of such products. "Risky business: how many cancers are acceptable? The new science of risk assessment stirs controversy", (U*the Reader, September/October, 1991 reviews a range of articles from many magazines and scientific journals but does not seem to find a concrete answer. Even the New Jersey courts found difficulty in establishing statistical evidence for levels of chemicals as they relate to incidence of disease. Medical expert testimony was not allowed in evidence in two cases of the effect of PCB's on colon cancer. In two other cases it was accepted that the exposure to asbestos was not great enough to have increased the risk of colon cancer (New York Times, September 16).

The 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals in a 57 page opinion blasted EPA for major procedural and scientific misconduct in banning nearly all asbestos products from the market. The EPA "failed to muster substantial evidence", its economic review was "meaningless" in its "zeal to ban asbestos". The court did not challenge the EPA's scientific basis that asbestos poses a health risk, but it ruled that the EPA did not prove that asbestos products still on the market pose unreasonable risks. WSJ, October

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11 . An earlier report commissioned by the EPA itself suggested that expensive remedial action to reduce exposure to asbestos in commercial and public buildings is not warranted (WSJ, September 25 '9 and poses little danger to most building occupants (NY Times, September 26). Similar accusations have been made against the EPA in its stands against dioxin (Washington Times, September 12 '9 and PCB s (Washington Times, September 15 . Their risks have been drastically overstated and billions of dollars have been spent to rid such substances from the environment, whose actual exposure levels are generally insignificant or nonexistant risks. EPA Administrator Reilly has admitted that the environmental debate has had plenty of emotion and politics but has suffered from too little science (Washington Post, August 29 .

Such is the case with radon in houses. The EPA risk projection based on equating uranium miners risks to household occupants with regard to lung cancer, is considered unacceptable by F.H. Abelsin (Science, October 1990 to which F. W. Luchenbaugh in IEEE News, August 19, 1991 agrees. Again at the end of July an outside review panel rejected EPA's draft" report on Electromagnetic fields (EMF since they found that the evidence to conclude that they were carcinogenic was insufficient (Science News, September 28, 1991 . The question of lead poisoning has reappeared and it has been noted that proven evidence of manipulating data of a Dr. Needleman (University of Pittsburgh and a negative report on his findings was withdrawn by the EPA some years ago.

Some of the same arguments can be levelled at EPA, with regard to pesticides, particularly the disaster of Alar on apples. But in this context, there are an enormous number of chemicals and in general, perhaps, they are doing a fair job One of the main troubles in all these events is the very unscientific and illogical attitudes and knowledge of the public, who are not able to comprehend all points of view. Indeed they have made up their mind in most cases based on a small anti-group and to hell with the majority.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE

Now a similar situation exists with ETS and the EPA. I have attempted to review the present position with a range of people, including Mr. Schlagenhaus, aide of Representative Bilbey (R.Va who has attacked the EPA on this subject (Washington Post September 11 '9 , Legal Times, September 23 .

It is understood that the EPA often contracts out a review of a subject or product or report to approved contractors. This was done with the ETS Policy report to ICF, an all purpose consulting firm. They in turn subcontracted this review to the Smoking Policy Institute in Seattle, an anti-smoking consultancy firm. EPA did not arrange this. They were the origin of the report and obviously it was quite unbalanced in documentation. Indeed it was written with one objective in mind, strong criticism of tobacco and probably designed to support appropriate members of EPA

Bilbey held hearings on November 20th with regard to the Clean Air Act, with particular reference to the EPA following correct contractual procedures in employing appropriate organizations. It is possible that they did not do this properly with the Smoking Policy Institute. It was noted that Administrator Reilly was not aware of their employment. Bilbey considers that EPA should show a willingness to look at data, which does not support their arguments e.g. asbestos and their lost appeal.

Much to my chagrin, most people contacted consider that the classification of ETS as a Class A carcinogen appears inevitable. Schlagenhaus said that this would

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not be consistent with other chemicals as classified. It would set a precedent for the future and furthermore would be considered by OSHA in their deliberations of fees requested by January 31 on occupational exposure to indoor air pollutants. Federal Register, September 17 (F).

Schlagenhaus interviewed six employees of the EPA concerning the ETS report. As a result of this information and hearings, Tilley/Schlagenhaus have written fifteen types of questions on the subject to Administrator Reilly and are awaiting a reply. They will then review options for the next step. Tilley (R,VA) is on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and very friendly with Rep. Dingell (D, MI - Chairman).

It is understood that the EAB will review this policy review and that it may be published by April 1992. OSHA will produce its regulatory report after this EAB are making a scientific presentation to Reilly in December 14th. There was a Passive Smoking television documentary on a 20/20 program on November 21. All statements were obviously pre-recorded and put together. I thought that the EM and EIT representatives were poor. The main impetus of the program was to emphasize that passive smoking is bad and can cause cancer and other problems.

Interestingly it was noted that a scientist advising the EPA on the health effects of cigarette smoking has received a $1.2 m research grant from PM (Wall Street Journal, November 21) (G).

F.J. Tuteur in a letter to JAMA, October 9 (G) stated that there has been no specific evaluation of the biologic effects of pipe sidestream smoke. Indirect evidence suggests that it may be a more substantial factor contributing to disease/ health risk than cigarette tobacco smoke, since many pipe smokers do not inhale mainstream smoke at all.

f. Miscellaneous

a) Bill Felke, Chairman Tobacco Standardization Group ASTM D01 (Ed) reports that in the unmanufactured leaf group, they are looking at problems associated with Oriental Tobaccos.

b) Bill Steele, Manager of the Tobacco Institute Testing Laboratory reports that they continue to analyze an annual survey of U.S. cigarettes for the FTC by the Filtrona modified machine. The latest report on U.S. cigarettes for 1991 was sent to FTC some time ago. H.T. Pillsbury reports that the 1992 results should be published early 1993.

c) American Eagle Airlines began flying out of Oklahoma City on October 1. Smokers get the front rows. They charge an annual $10 membership fee.

d) Bic Corporation announced that a child-safe lighter would be in the shelves in early 1992.

e) The Tobacco Institute is cutting 22 positions from its staff of about 100. The budget is $19m. It is unlikely that the cutbacks will affect their lobbying capacity since they rely on outside lobbyists, lawyers and public relations firms (Wall Street Journal, November 20).

f) The Senate approved Cabinet status for the EPA but this has not received vote in the House (Washington Post, October 1).

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...The latest in "people's rights" is the banning of fragrances in public places. Groups of "environmentally disabled", three chemically sensitive to perfumes and allergies, are revolting against fragrances. "W5 Today, September 9; NY Times, September 10

II. CANADA

Legislation

The Government appealed the Chabot judgment on advertising to the Quebec Court of Appeals which would be a normal procedure. This appeal is scheduled to be heard mid-May 1992. It is difficult to predict the judgment outcome. The Chabot judgment has had worldwide publicity and certainly it is of great value to decisions in the USA, in that the Canadian Federal Government obviously went far too far.

In the meantime the companies are not advertising during the appeal period, despite the fact that their lawyers do not agree with the Chabot recommendation of no advertising or the Government lawyers with the same decision.

The response by the Government to the tax write-in campaign of smokers is far early to judge. The federal budget is not announced until the latter part of February. Meanwhile smuggling and people going across borders for purchases continues widely. The Minister National Health and Welfare, in a letter to all Canadians, is greatly heartened by the strong support for the tax and other measures to reduce tobacco use, received from health groups, non-smokers and former smokers. As more Canadians realize that the tax is a public health measure, they, too, will support it.

Industry:

Imasco Chairman Crawford acknowledged that burdensome taxes are threatening the future of the Canadian tobacco industry (Tobacco Reporter, September 1991). As an example of this, the Addiction Research Foundation claims that, "as a result of high tobacco taxes and tough anti-smoking laws, teenage (12-19) smoking rates fell 17% between 1987 and 1991.

Imasco reported 3Q profits of $98.8 m, 12% over 3Q 1990. This is said to be due to a 1.5% gain in the domestic cigarette share and exports, now standing at about 61% (RJR 15-16%, Rothmans 23%). Rothmans also reported increased 3Q profits up 1.9% over 1990. There has been a sharp decline in domestic sales for the three quarters of about 13%, strongly affecting sales of wholesalers and retailers, but exports and smuggling bring this figure to a total decline of only 3-4%. The three companies raised wholesale cigarette prices by about 12.6% in September, the first hike for about a year (WSJ, September 10).

The RYO patent infringement lawsuit with Rothmans has been appealed by ITL and RTR. This means that both the latter companies are not selling those particular products. Judgment was considered biased by ITL and no notice was taken of their expert witnesses.

While the TTMC took action on supporting smoker's rights with the write-in

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campaign to prove the groups [illegible] Tuesday [illegible] referred to in TJC Report #1 page 23 continues to expand and make petitions wherever needed in their behalf.

ITL were accused of targeting the tobacco products to the 12-17 year old age group (TC Observer, November 10th). ITL responded in no uncertain terms. Whether certainly this was due to anti-tobacco groups taking quotes out of context.

Health

The US Government has been looking at the Canadian Health Care system as a possible model for implementation. An interesting up to date review "Canadian Health Care is a model for disaster" WSJ, October 18th clearly indicates the current pitfalls of the system.

The anti-tobacco health groups in Ontario are lobbying for generic packaging, further increases of taxes and restriction of sales of tobacco products. The Ontario Health Minister stated that the province had no plans to establish government-run tobacco retail outlets contrary to a recent report in Financial Post November 7th.

Leaf Production

Al Brow, Chairman of the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Marketing Board, further reiterated that heavy taxation was destroying Canada's tobacco industry. Flue-Cured Tobacco Farmer, November 1991. In 1987 there were 26000 flue cured farmers producing 200 million pounds, 1991 1000 producing 120m. This has [illegible] affected business in the tobacco growing areas. It is anticipated that in 1991 [illegible] of tobacco grown will be exported and this will be the only way that growers can maintain a production level of 120m.

The season for the 1991 crop has been good. With improved [illegible] management techniques, the use of irrigation, the extra leaf weight, by allowing leaf to mature properly to [illegible] of any consequence, the crop is estimated at about [illegible] pounds or 12 m over the agreed level.

Markets opened on October 21. The crop to date has been mostly from the bottom of the plant and prices have been similar to 1990. Some of the leaf grades show greyness, due to it being left in the field too long. The Marketing Board has already agreed to allow marketing of 140 m pounds and this may increase again another 12-15 million, if the market is strong. A decision will be taken at Christmas. This should mean that there will be a comparatively small amount not sold.

John I Campbell

JOHN I. CAMPBELL

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